

CHAPTER 16:

# CONTINUUM OF SERVICES AND FUNDING

**Juvenile Probation Officer and Caseworker  
Self-Instructional Manual**

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER AND CASEWORKER SELF-INSTRUCTIONAL MANUAL  
**CHAPTER 16: CONTINUUM OF SERVICES AND FUNDING**

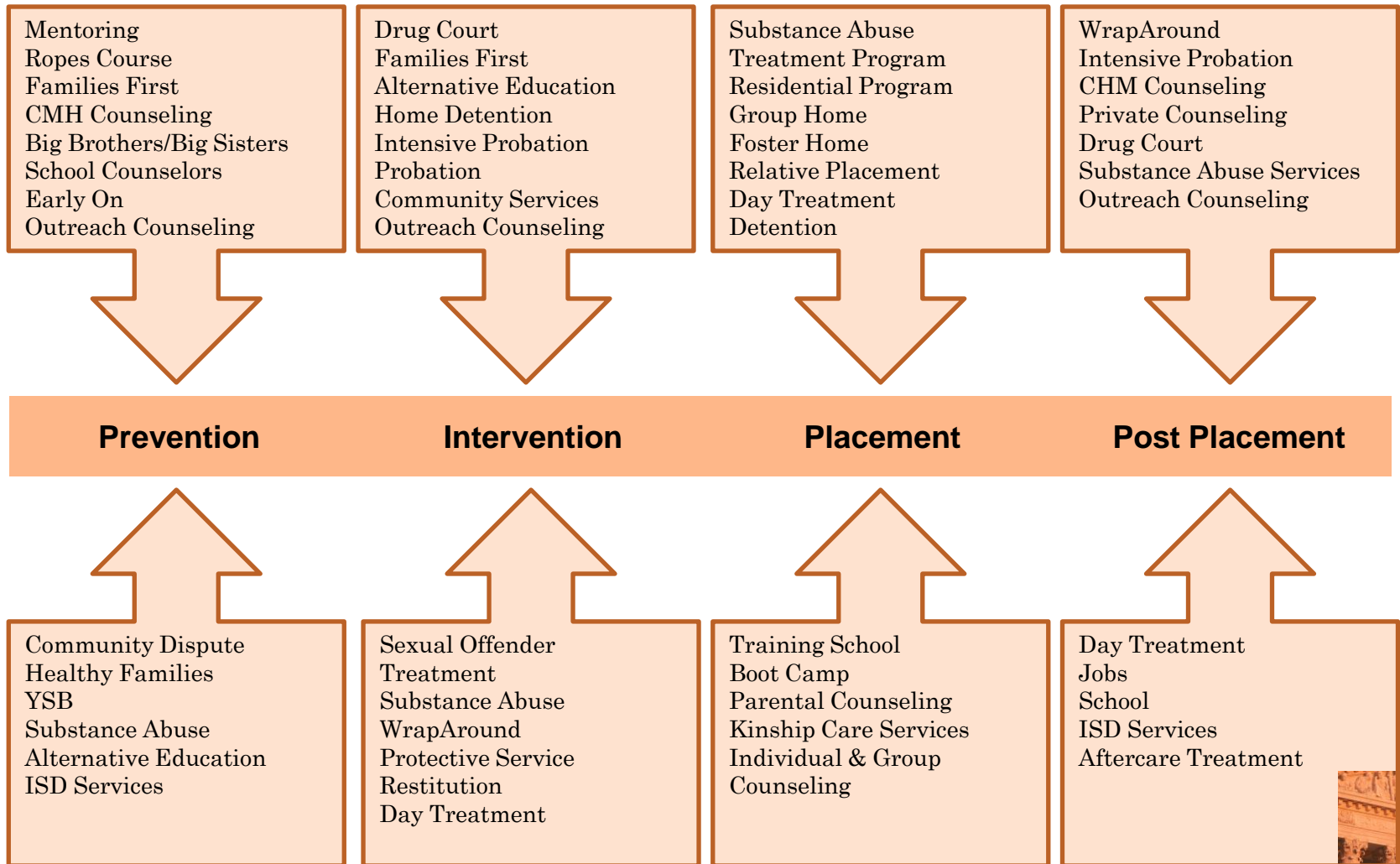
## **Continuum of Services**

The family division of the circuit court has long served the communities of this State by planning toward a full array of services for the young people and their families who either come within its jurisdiction or who are eligible to come within its jurisdiction. Although each jurisdiction may be vastly different, the process of providing a continuum of services is similar. The first step is to identify the various services offered for the potential and current court population in the various phases of court involvement – prevention, court intervention, court placement, and aftercare (whether operated by the court or some agency). See sample below.



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**Continuum of Care**



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#### PLANNING

There should be a review of the programs currently available to determine their effectiveness. The costs of the program should be reviewed in comparison to the benefits and the availability of future funding should be considered. Service gaps should be identified within the organizational goals.

A “needs assessment” can be a useful tool to determine the need for expanded, modified or additional services and may also indicate whether the community and other agencies would support a program. Although this can be an informal process, grant requirements from various funding sources look to more formal “needs assessments.” A systematic approach, demonstrating a clear understanding of the issues and the sources of information, has become a rather typical expectation.

(Material for this chapter was developed by Mr. Robert Nida, Barry County Trial Court Administrator.)



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**Tools to be used to gain information about the community or a specific need include:**

***Surveys of the Community*** – Assessing large groups of people in a random fashion. Specific groups or specific programs can be targeted.

***Social Indicators*** – Reviewing statistics, records, past research, reports, newsletters, interviews, suggestion boxes, etc.

***Key Informants*** – Survey or interview community leaders or agency representatives who are familiar with the system. This can provide for potential support.

***Community Forums*** – Similar to “town meetings” in which members of a designated community come together to identify and discuss problems.

***Nominal Group Method*** – Provides for a dialogue from a wide range of participants. They respond to specific questions regarding needs, barriers, and a group ranking of priorities through different forms.



## **Additional Consideration**

Further consideration should be given to a number of issues:

- Does the above process demonstrate what is needed?
- Is there a specific target population?
- Should a service or program be provided contractually or “in-house”?
- Can someone else pay for such a program or service?
- Does such a program have support of management?
- Does such a program have the support of other agencies?
- Is the program “politically correct”?
- Will the community support the program?
- What plans could there be for future funding?
- What “outcomes” will you want to measure?



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If the conclusion is that the program should be developed, then the court should perform the following:

- Design the facilities or programs, attending to detail.
- Staff, train, and supervise the organization.
- Develop the program.
- Develop measurable “outcomes.”
- Implement program.
- Evaluate and modify when necessary.
- Start the process again.

Historically, courts provided unofficial or diversion programs, shelter care, detention, probation, and placement with some aftercare options. Tightened budgets and limited services have forced the courts to look for other options in dealing with delinquent and neglect populations. The State, recognizing the high costs of placements, provided financial incentives for development of alternatives to court intervention and court placements. Such programs as home detention, intensive probation, day treatment, Youth Service Bureau, wraparound, intensive counseling programs, and local group homes have become cooperative programs between the County and the State. This trend will be a permanent one.



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## **PA 150 and PA 220 Youth**

**State Ward - Delinquent - Act 150:** A youth who has been **committed** to the Department of Human Services (DHS) under the Youth Rehabilitation Services Act (1974 PA 150). According to the following requirements:

- The ward is at least 12 years at the time of commitment by the juvenile court; and
- The offense for which the ward is committed occurred prior to the ward's 17th birthday.

**State Ward – Termination of Parental Rights – Act 220:** A child who has been **committed** to DHS following termination of parental rights by the family division

of the circuit court. DHS acquires legal authority over the child as a result of (1935 PA 220) termination of parental rights of both parents. The court commits all parental (guardianship) responsibilities to DHS. MCL 400.203. Such a child is considered a ward of the Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) and the superintendent of MCI is the child's legal guardian.





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**Funding Sources for Delinquent (and Dependant) Youth:**

There are a number of sources used to fund various court services and programs. The court must become creative in using various funding sources to continue the development of a strong continuum of care for the population it serves. The following dialogue only represents an example of the most common sources of funds.

There are currently *three common funding sources* for the care of children and youth. The child's legal status and funding eligibility influence which funding sources the child qualifies.

**Title IV-E (formerly ADC-FC)**

A. Cost Share: The cost share is dependent on the type of placement.

1. Approximately fifty percent State; fifty percent Federal; for all licensed foster homes and eligible private child care institutions.
2. Fifty percent Federal; twenty-five percent State; twenty-five percent County, for Arbor Heights Center and Department operated residential care center placements.



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**Funding Sources for Delinquent (and Dependant) Youth:**

**B. Billing/Payment Procedure:**

1. For children in placement eligible for fifty percent Federal; fifty percent State funding: State pays cost and claims federal reimbursement, no County costs.
2. For children in placement eligible for fifty percent Federal; twenty-five percent State; twenty-five percent County: County charges back twenty-five percent of costs.

**C. Description:** To be eligible for Title IV-E funding, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. The child must meet specific Title IV-E eligibility criteria, including establishment of financial need and deprivation (was or would have been eligible for Title IV-E in his/her own home).
2. If the child is a court ward (not committed to the State through Public Act 150 or 220), the courts' order must place the child under the "care and supervision" of the DHS.
3. The court order must state in the first hearing that it is contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the home of the parents, and that within sixty (60) days make a determination that reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal or to return the child to the home.
4. The child must be placed in a Title IV-E fundable placement. Title IV-E fundable placements are licensed family foster homes, private child caring institutions and small treatment facilities (25 residents or less) operated by the DHS.



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## **Reimbursement**

Reimbursement always depends on approval of the Annual Plan and Budget and the In-Home Care and Basic Grant components.

Reimbursable Child Care Fund expenditures fall into three broad categories:

1. **County Operated Child Care Facilities:**  
Reimbursement is limited to the operating cost of the facility. There is no reimbursement for capital expenditure. There are limits to the eligibility of repair expenses.
2. **Out-of-Home Care for Court Wards:**  
Cost of the direct services to court wards placed in foster care, institutional care or independent living are generally reimbursable. Judicial or court administrative costs are not reimbursable.



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## Reimbursement

### 3. In-Home Care (approval component):

Most costs, except judicial costs incurred in reducing out-of-home days of care, are reimbursable. These costs are limited to the following:

- a. Children under the jurisdiction of the court, as an alternative to removal from the child's home, provided that such care is an alternative to detention or other out-of-home care and:
  - i. A written complaint has been received and accepted by the court;
  - ii. The expenditures are not for judicial costs;
  - iii. The caseload size or services are intensive, not more than a 1 to 20 caseload and weekly face-to-face contact;
  - iv. Nonscheduled payments are not made to pay for basic family needs otherwise available through public assistance programs; or
  - v. The parent(s) and the youth have agreed in writing to receive in-home care services, or a temporary order has been entered placing the child in in-home care pending an adjudication hearing.
- b. The in-home care early return option may be used to accelerate the early return of a youth from family foster care, institutional care, or other out-of-home care when the case plan identifies an early return goal and the services are provided to members of the child's family.
- c. The court must be in compliance with the administrative rule requiring a county funded probation officer/caseworker for every 6,000 youth population under the age of 19. (*Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1985-5*).



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**DHS – Family Preservation Account – Child Safety and Permanency Plan (CSPP) and Families First.**

- A. Cost Share: State – one hundred percent.
- B. Billing/Payment: State pays for service either for contract of nonscheduled services.
- C. Description: This fund is for DHS supervised youth, either neglect/abuse or delinquent. Fund is to be used for services that prevent the need for out-of-home placement. Some pilot joint CSPP's have been implemented which allow the courts to access these funds and services for court supervised youth.

Examples of CSPP services in addition to Families First are:

- 1) In-Home Counseling,
- 2) Wraparound,
- 3) Mentors,
- 4) Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST),
- 5) Parenting Classes, and
- 6) Sex Abuse Counseling.

When considering the continuum of services, the court must look at all options for resources and funding sources. The list is as long as ingenuity and the imagination can go.



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#### **DHS – Family Preservation Account – Child Safety and Permanency Plan (CSPP) and Families First.**

Movement through the Continuum of Care provides an array of funding sources. For example, the Intermediate School District (ISD) has financial responsibilities to provide special education services from birth through the 25th birthday. Early-On provides programs to “at risk” children from birth to three years old.

Community Mental Health is mandated to treat the Medicaid eligible based on specific diagnoses with a Child & Adolescence Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) score of at least 50 degree of disability, duration of illness and prior service utilization. Adults receiving Medicaid are also eligible for treatment for a variety of psychological and psychiatric disorders. And, private insurance companies also provide coverage for a variety of possible services.

Schools provide services through their counseling departments, and many offer alternative education programs. Schools rely on funding through attendance on count days. Probation officers should take great efforts in making sure that supervised youth are in school during these periods of time. The *Michigan Works!* Program, offered through the ISDs, helps young people with employment opportunities.



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**DHS – Family Preservation Account – Child Safety and Permanency Plan (CSPP) and Families First.**

Many programs that serve court and DHS supervised youth are offered by agencies that receive funds in part from the United Way, Strong Families/Safe Children, and Child Safety and Permanency Planning (CSPP). Such programs as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, mentoring, counseling programs, YMCA programs, victims' services, Healthy Families, sexual assault counseling, kinship care programs, Families First, Wraparound, etc. can provide important services to clients.

Other County and State agencies and organizations provide a multitude of services and programs that benefit the court and DHS clients. Not only are the DHS, Community Mental Health, schools, and ISDs active players, but also such agencies as Public Health, private family and child counseling agencies, substance abuse agencies, MSU Cooperative Extension, 4-H, Friend of the Court, and transportation.



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## **Why Consider Funding When Developing a Case Plan?**

While the needs of the child should determine case planning, tightening budgets require the court to utilize all possible resources to fund programs. Although the Child Care Fund, the General Fund and IV-E funding are key to probation, intensive home programs and placements, the court must pursue such things as restitution, community service, fines and costs, parental reimbursement, income tax intercepts, social security and SSI benefits, veteran's benefits, and private insurance. Court administrators and chief judges should consider pursuing grant and foundation applications--to such organizations as local, state, and national foundations, the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA), Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG), the Community Health Juvenile Justice Diversion Program (CHJJDP), the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), the Michigan Supreme Court (MSC) and federal substance abuse organizations—for essential new programming.

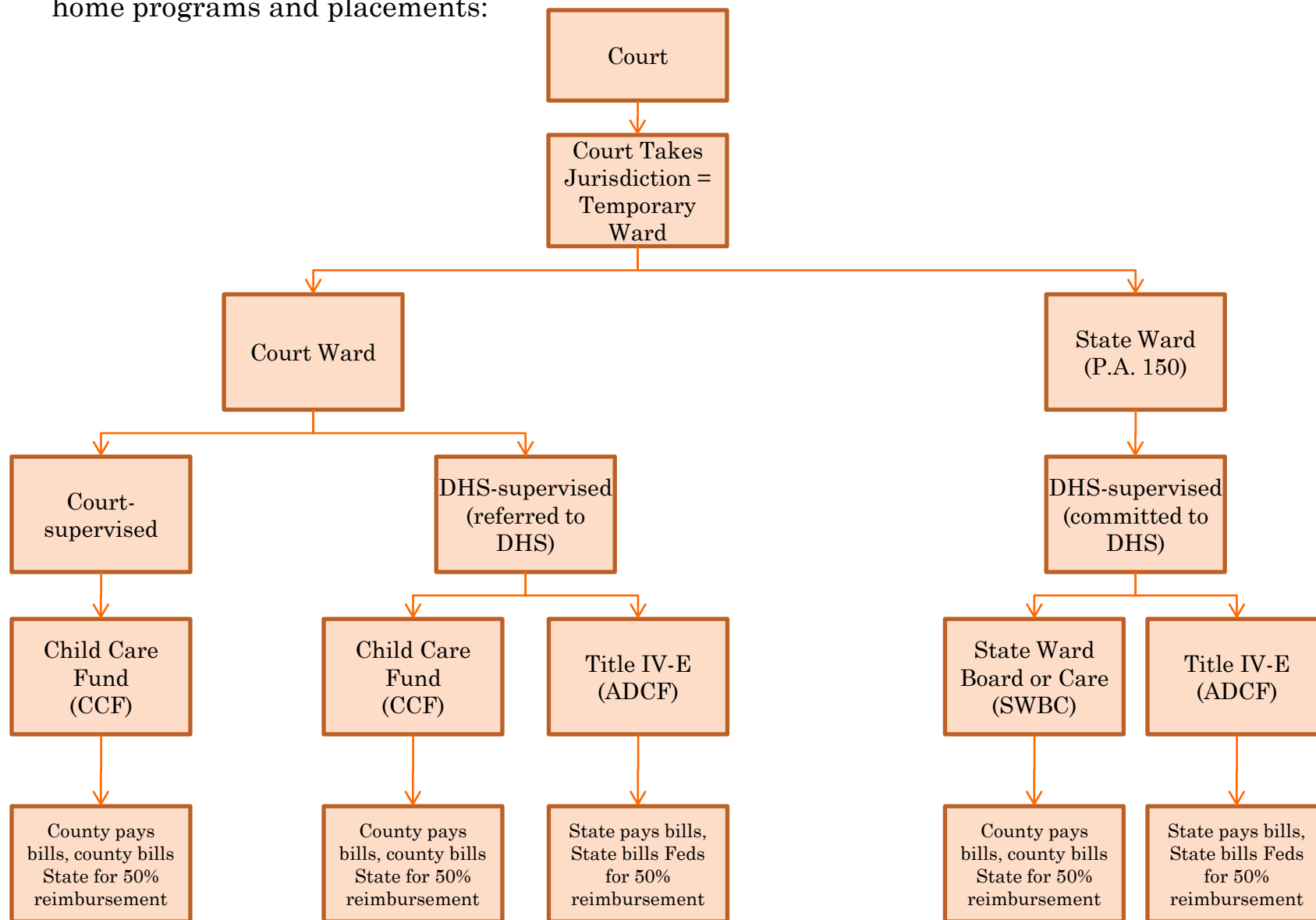
Each staff member of the family division of the circuit court is responsible for the success of the system. The court must be both effective and cost-efficient. This is your challenge!





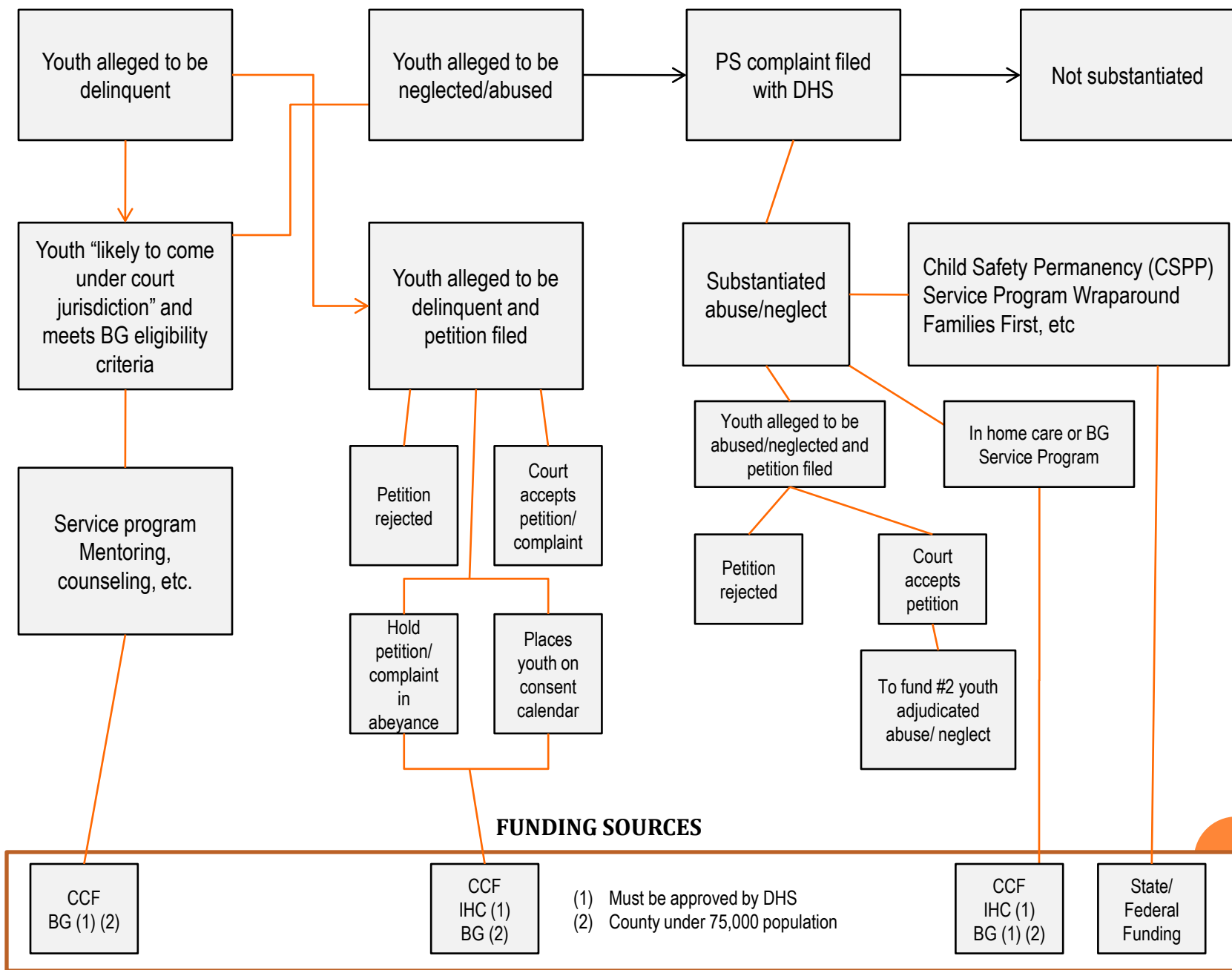
## Charts of Services and Funding

The following charts represent the traditional methods of funding special in-home programs and placements:



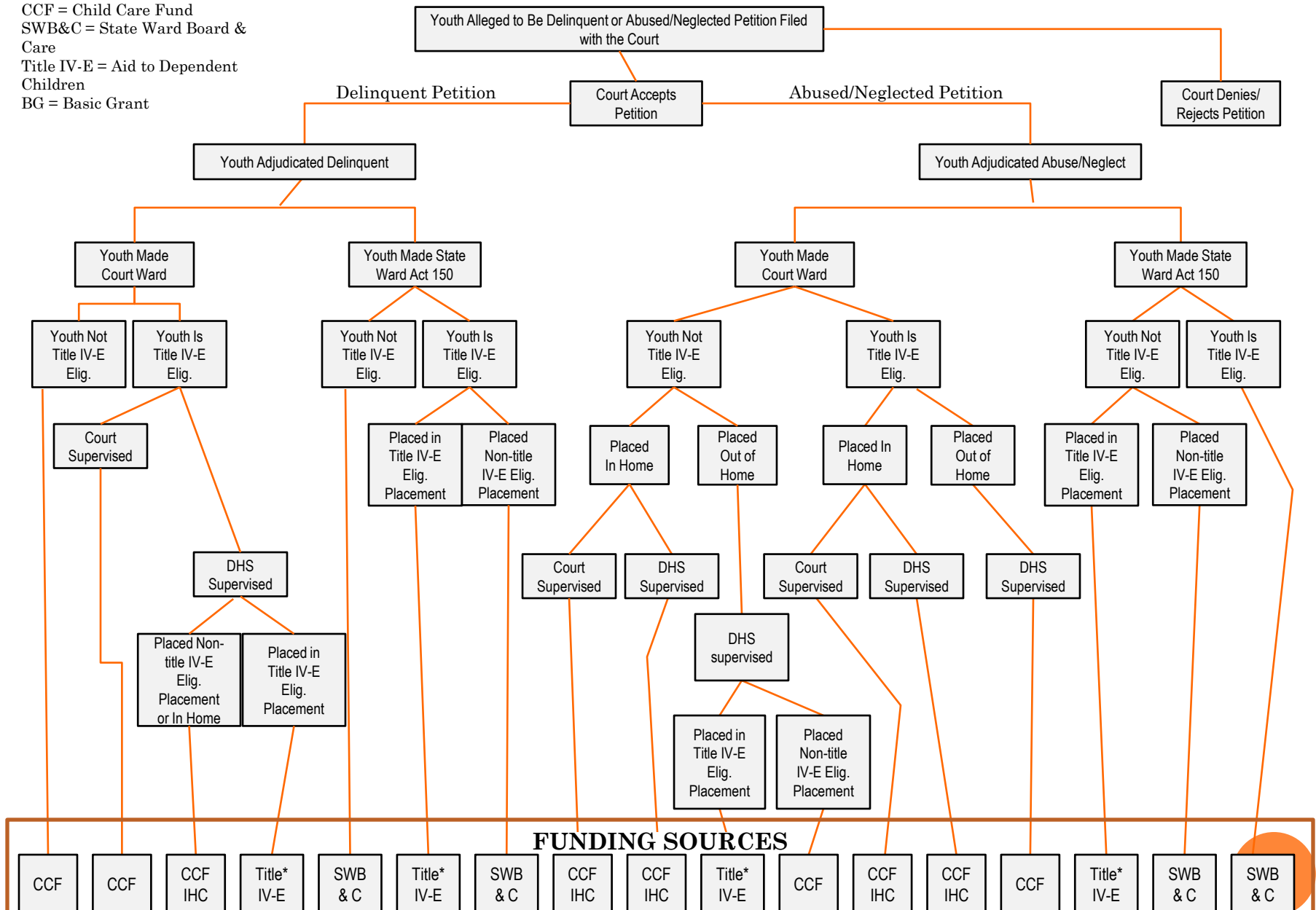
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# Funding Source Chart #2

CCF = Child Care Fund  
 SWB&C = State Ward Board & Care  
 Title IV-E = Aid to Dependent Children  
 BG = Basic Grant



If the following Title IV-E eligibility requirements are met.  
 1. Continuous Title IV-E eligibility In Home from which removed.  
 2. Youth's income and property do not exceed established limits.

3. Court finding that reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal or are being made to reunify family.

4. DHS responsible for out-of-home placement selection.

NOTE: Funding is available for both state and court wards through Performance Agreements.